



MEMORANDUM

TO: Common Council

From: Nancy McKenney, RDH, MS, Public Health Director

Date: June 15, 2015

RE: Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Healthy Brain Initiative/Dementia-Friendly Communities Mini-grant

This memorandum requests Common Council approval for the Menasha Health Department to spend mini grant funds (\$2,000). The funds will be used to learn about integrating dementia into community health assessments, community health planning processes, and local dementia-friendly community efforts.

BACKGROUND

On June 4, 2015, the Menasha Health Department received notice from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services of a Healthy Brain Initiative/Dementia-Friendly Communities mini-grant opportunity. The application was due on June 8, 2015. Due to the quick turnaround, Mayor Merkes approved submitting the application. On June 8, 2015 the Menasha Health Department was notified that we were selected to receive one of the \$2,000 mini-grants. This is a one-time funding opportunity. All activities must be completed by June 30, 2015.

According to the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, it is estimated that over 25 percent of the City of Menasha residents are over the age of 55. We recognize that dementia is an emerging public health crisis. As required by [Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 251.05](#), the Menasha Health Department is currently working with health care systems and adjacent health departments on community health assessments. This is an ideal time to learn more about integrating dementia into community health assessments, community health planning processes, and local dementia-friendly community efforts. Integration will help the community to better understand dementia, current and future impact, and steps to build a dementia-friendly community.

ANALYSIS

This funding would assist the Menasha Health Department, Senior Center staff, Committee on Aging, Board of Health, and others to learn more about dementia, its individual and community impact, and the need for integration into community health assessment and planning, using the resources in [A Tool Kit for Building Dementia-Friendly Communities](#). We would then be better positioned to engage the public, businesses, and government entities in assessing community needs and planning effective strategies.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approving the spending of this grant leverages state funds for education and community health assessment.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Common Council makes a motion to accept the grant funding and approves spending the funds in 2015